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## On the Desirability of Widflowers Whilst Dogwalking

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# On the Desirability of Wildflowers Whilst Dogwalking

by John Charles Ryan

my Rottweiler named Axle  
suspends and strains at his lead  
raring steadily like a sled dog  
neck barrelled and rippling,  
musculature, a sleek black  
as the hide of a gorilla, loping  
along fickle Lesmurdie sidewalks,

overarched by wattle spoondrift  
and the tentative reds of eucalypts  
the sprawling coven of the winter hills  
fuchsia grevillea and prickly moses—  
his injections are succinic  
episodes of *micturus interruptus*  
into each cosmetic cranny of lawn,

each errant tuft of trans-hemispheric  
grass issued an amber ordinance  
a canine-decreed cease and desist  
he knows the punctilio of the town—  
in the enclaves of bush, a Telstra tower;  
underneath the aureole of flowering acacia,  
a radiance tempered by solstice mists,

a daily rumpus with a fenced-in dog  
perturbs his mild-mannered countenance  
sends him into twists of baritone  
barking, shaking bowel-deep excitement,  
quietened by the red-tailed cockatoo  
wrestling jarrah nuts, splitting stone-hard  
hulls with beaks like iron instruments—

my companion sees none of this (or alas)  
has seen it all along, feigns being impressed  
seems mesmerised by sand specks  
studding a tennis ball that I pitch in perfect,  
slow camber over the sated scrubland  
over low-dwelling insect sucking rosettes  
above purple splendour herbal ringlets—

he goes tearing down the track after it  
snaps the radioactive green orb into his jaws  
in mid-stride, sniffs for dog sign language,  
leaves a vile dropping that consumes the air—  
nose safe in wattle churning of sweetness  
it occurs to me, there are too few adjectives  
for the tragedies of smell, well, none that egress

Axle goads me 'round the sandy track.

**John Ryan** is in his last year of a PhD programme in the School of Communications and Arts at Edith Cowan University. Some of his plant poetry has been published in *SWAMP*, *Perilous Adventures*, *Philament* and *Bukker Tillibul* (forthcoming).